Message Text

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TAGS: UNICEF, SWEL

SUBJ: UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - FRIDAY SESSION

SUMMARY: MANAGEMENT REPORT WAS INTRODUCED BY SCANDANAVIAN INSTITUTE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RESEARCH (SIAR) REPRESENTATIVES, EMPHASIZING SIAT'S UNIQUE APPROACH TO MANAGEMENT ISSUES. SEVENTEEN DELS MADE STATEMENTS. ALL COUNTRIES INDICATED GENERAL SUPPORT OF SIAR RECOMMENDATIONS

BUT A NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS WERE NOTED. END SUMMARY.

- 1. WHILE ALL 17 COUNTRIES THAT INTERVENED IN DEBATE SPOKE FAVORABLY OF THE SIAR REPORT, ALL ALSO HAD RESERVATIONS. MOST SIGNIFICANT RESERVATIONS AS FOLLOWS:
- UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTORS (THIS WAS A MAJOR POINT OF CONCERN ON THE PART OF MOST COUNTRIES):
- THE EB SHOULD HAVE HAD THE INDIVIDUAL REPORTS THAT FORMED THE BASIS FOR THE FINAL SIARE REPORT, SO THAT DELEGATION ASSESSMENTS COULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ALL THE FACTS:
- REPORT OMITTED UNICEF'S RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER UN AGENCIES:
- REPORT NEGLECTED TO ANALYZE UNICEF'S SUPPLY FUNCTION:
- REPORT NEGLECTED TO GO INTO THE PROBLEM OF UNCLASSIFIED

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RECRUITMENT (A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES EMPHASIZED NEED FOR MORE

REPRESENTATIONAL REPRESENTATION, WHILE OTHERS WERE MORE CONCERNED WITH THE HIGH AVERAGE AGE OF PRESENT UNICEF EMPLOYEES);

- LITTLE MENTION WAS MADE OF THE PLACEMENT OF WOMEN IN POLICY POSITIONS (ANOTHER MAJOR CONCERN);
- ISSUES REGARDING FUND RAISING WRE NOT ADDRESSED;
- THE EB NEEDS A TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION, WHICH NOT INCLUDED IN REPORT;
- THERE IS NEED TO CLARIFY THE COMPUTATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS;
- CONSIDERABLE CLARIFICATION IS NEEDED AS TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS WITH RESPECT TO HEADQUARTERS;
- REPORT NEGLECTED TO INDICATE A STATEMENT OF UNICEF'S GOALS SO AS TO ALLOW FOR ANALYSIS OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOALS AND SIAR'S RECOMMENDATIONS;
- REPORT NEGLECTED TO INDICATE ANY PRIORITIES WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS;
- FEAR WAS EXPRESSED BY SOME DELEGATIONS THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF SIARE RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD RESULT IN OVERCENTRALIZATION;
- FEARS WERE EXPRESSED BY OTHERS THAT IMPLEMENTATION WOUL RESULT IN THE CREATION OF COMPETING FIEFDOMS;
- QUESTION OF THE ADVANTAGES OF BILATERAL OVER MULTI-LATERAL ASSISTANCE NOT ADDRESSED;
- MATTER OF REDUCING UNICEF COSTS PER UNIT OF VALUE NOT APPROACHED (THIS A THEME OF UK AND PAKISTAN, WITH UK DEL STATING THAT IF COSTS UNICEF THREE TIMES TO DELIVER A UNIT OF PRODUCT AS COMPARED TO DELIVERING THE SAME PRODUCT BILATERALLY);
- 2. SIAR REBUTTAL CONFINED ONLY TO ONE REMARK, THAT SIAR ALSO CONCERNED THAT UNIT COSTS OF UNICEF ASSISTANCE SO HIGH. ENT ON TO SAY THAT WITH REGARD OTHER COMMENTS SIAR REPS WOULD TALK TO DELS INDIVIDUALLY.
- 3. LABOUISSE IN APPARENT ANGRY MOOD TOOK ISSUE WITH DEBATE ON SEVERAL COUNTS. STATED THAT HE DOUBTED THAT UNICEF MORE EXPENSIVE THAN BILATERAL ASSISTANCE; WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE KNEW OF NO FACTS THAT COULD SUPPORT UNCLASSIFIED

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THIS ALLEGATION. WITH REGARD TO THE ABSENCE OF GOALS IN SIAR REPORT, STATED THAT HE TOLD SIAR WHAT THE GOALS WERE AND BLAME COULD NOT BE PUT ON SIAR IN THIS REGARD. NOTED THAT IT WAS HIS PREFERENCE TO HAVE REGIONAL OFFICERS IN THE FIELD RATHER THAN AT HEADQUARTERS, A PRACTICE FOLLOWED BY UNDP, ON GROUNDS THAT THIS WAS A BETTER ORGANIZATIONAL TECHNIQUE. ALSO NOTED THAT AS DIRECTOR HE HAD TO DEAL WITH PERSONALITIES, WHO NOT ALL TOP CALIBER, AND THAT SIAR

REPORT HAD TACKLED ISSUE OF REGIONAL DIRECTORS TOO ABSTRACTLY. NOTED THAT IN THE RECRUITMENT AND GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYEES UNICEF GUIDED BY NECESSITY BY REGULATIONS OF THE UN AND INFERRED THAT THESE COULD NOT BE CHANGED FOR UNICEF, SINCE THE ISSUES OF INJUSTICES IN EMPLOYMENT WERE UN-WIDE. LIKED THE IDEA OF INSTILLING MORE PROFESSIONALISM INTO UNICEF; ALSO LIKED THE UNITARY BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS OF SIAR, BUT NOTED THAT THERE STILL MUCH WORK TO BE DONE HERE. WITH REGARD TO THE COMMENTS ON WOMEN, NOTED THAT, AS REPORTED OTHER MSGS THAT HE WOULD DO ALL HE COULD BUT THERE WERE PROBLEMS. CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT HE COULD NOT RUN AN OPERATION WHEN HE WAS CONSTANTLY BEING AGITATED BY ISSUES OF ORGANIZATION; AT ONE POINT NOTED THAT IF THE BOARD WAS DISSATISFIED THAT PERHAPS THEY SHOULD GET A NEW DIRECTOR.

4. IN ADDITION TO COMMENTS ON SIARE REPORT AT LEAST TWO DELS STRUCK THEME, INITIATED BY PHILIPPINES AS REPORTED EARLIER MSG, THAT THE TIME HAD COME TO EXPAND THE SIZE OF THE EB.

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